

Andrew (Drew) Bloom
Immediate Past President
& board member of the Bail Association of Connecticut
EVP 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc. DADs Bail Bonds, LLC
President of Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc.
57 Fishfry Street, Hartford, CT 06120
860-247-BAIL (2245)

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Good Afternoon Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna and distinguished members of this committee, I am here today testifying on the behalf of the Bail Association of Connecticut (BAC) to demonstrate **support of Raised House Bill 5235**.

My name is Andrew Bloom. I have been a licensed surety bail bondsman for almost 20 years, bail enforcement agent, and one of the owners of 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc. which employs about 20 people. I am also one of the owners of DADs Bail Bonds, LLC which over the years has represented nearly 10,000 bail bonds written a year, a longtime member of The Professional Bail Agents of The United States, and a founding member, board member and Immediate Past President of the Bail Association of Connecticut.

In my career as a Bail Enforcement Agent and as president of the Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc., I personally have nearly 1500 while supervising over 11,000 defendants arrested. Bail Bonds is the only form of pretrial release to self monitor and self enforce non-compliance. When the principal fails, no other form of pretrial release is held accountable or to the same standard as Bail Bonds.

There are two important items related to surety bail bonds that this bill affects.

1. The first change to the currant laws proposed in this bill is the allowance for the Connecticut Insurance Department to cancel the licenses of individuals who fail to complete the renewal process by their expiration date; with a ten day reinstatement period. This section also provides that the commissioner will notify all surety bail bond agent licensees of such automatic expiration provision in a timely manner.
 - a. We believe this will assist in the renewal process for surety bail bond agents and help to be sure it is done in a timely manner. However, we suggest that a specific time frame for notification by the department be included into the language contained in Line 17 of the underlying bill. We understand that this notification period by the department must be cognizant on the demands already placed on its staff, but believe that no later than 45 days would be appropriate.
2. The second change addressed in this bill is the addition of a continuing education requirement for licensed surety bail bond agents.
 - a. We believe continuing education will help to inform all licensed agents of any changes of regulations and laws as well as bring uniformity to their interpretations.

We strongly support these changes and look forward to working with the department to implement this moving forward.

Thank you,

Andrew (Drew) Bloom